

# RURAL DISTRICT OF THEDWASTRE.

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## REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1908.

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### To the Chairman and Members of the Thedwastre Rural District Council.

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7TH JANUARY, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Fifth Annual Report on the Health of the District, for the year ending the 31st December, 1908.

#### *Vital Statistics.*

I have estimated the population of this District to the middle of 1908 as 8855, and have based the following statistics on that figure.

Birth Rate,  
24.6 per 1000.

The number of Births registered during the year was 218 (boys 108, girls 100), which gives a Birth Rate of 24.6 per 1000; compared with 21.9 last year, and an average of 25.8 for the previous 10 years, (see Table I); 10 of these Births were illegitimate.

The Birth Rate for the East Stow District was 26.0 per 1000.

Death Rate,  
15.0 per 1000.

There were 122 Deaths registered in the District during the year (males 71, females 51); 10 paupers who died in the Union Workhouse belonged to the District and these added to the above gives the total of 132, which is equal to a Death Rate of 15.0 per 1000, compared with 12.2 last year, and an average of 14.6 per 1000 for the previous 10 years (see Tables I and II).

The Death Rate for the East Stow District was 14.7 per 1000.

Infant Mor-  
tality, 82 per  
1000 Births.

Of the total number of Deaths, 18 were of infants under 1 year of age; this gives an Infant Mortality of 82 per 1000 Births, compared with 75 last year and an average of 83 for the previous 10 years.

The Infant Mortality of the East Stow District was 105 per 1000 Births.

Zymotic  
Death Rate,  
Nil.

The Zymotic Death Rate this year is nil, compared with 0.5 last year.

This Rate for the East Stow District was also nil.

Other Deaths.

Amongst the other Deaths (see Table IV.) occurring during the year were; 7 from Influenza, all in the Walsham-le-Willows Sub-District; 10 from Phthisis, compared with 8 last year; 12 from Cancer, compared with 7 last year; 30 from Diseases of Respiratory organs, compared with 13 last year; 23 from Heart Disease, compared with 9 last year; 2 deaths were caused by accidents, and 2 others were suicidal, and 18 were returned as due to old age.

## ***Infectious Diseases.***

There were 18 notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year, compared with 20 last year. (See Table III).

The cases were as follows :—

Diphtheria 1 ; compared with 4 last year.  
Erysipelas 8 ; compared with 8 last year.  
Scarlet Fever 9 ; compared with 8 last year.

No cases of Enteric Fever have been notified from this District during the last three years.

The case of Diphtheria occurred at Rickinghall and was imported ; the cases of Erysipelas at Hessett, Rattlesden, Stowlangtoft, Thurston, and Walsham-le-Willows ; the cases of Scarlet Fever at Drinkstone, Gedding, Norton, Stowlangtoft, Thurston and Walsham.

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This District consists of 20 Villages, scattered over a large area, and is purely agricultural.

**Water Supply.** The Sub-soil is mostly heavy clay, ponds are common and are largely used for domestic purposes ; drinking water is obtained chiefly from shallow wells, and a few deep wells in the chalk ; several of the Villages have a public supply under the control of the Council, viz :—Ashfield, Beyton, Drinkstone, Elmswell, Hinderclay, Rattlesden, Rickinghall and Woolpit.

**House Accommodation.** The house accommodation for the working classes is on the whole very unsatisfactory, the cottages being in the large majority of cases damp and ill ventilated, with only 2 bedrooms ; so that frequent cases of overcrowding occur. These are very difficult to deal with satisfactorily.

**Sanitary arrangements.** Privy vaults are the usual form of sanitary accommodation and are a fruitful source of evils, chief amongst them being the pollution of the water supply.

**Notices, &c.** Notices were served on owners or occupiers in respect to nuisances connected with 30 houses in the district and all but 1 have been complied with ; and 1 nuisance, notified in last report as not having been abated, has been remedied this year.

Details as to these notices, &c. will be found under the heading of the separate villages.

**Cow Sheds and Dairies.** The Dairies and Cowsheds in the District were inspected during the year, and were reported to be in a fairly satisfactory sanitary condition, and with ample air-space.

**Factory Act.** There are few factories and workshops in the District coming under the Factories and Workshops Act ; these are in a satisfactory condition.

**The following details have reference to the various Villages in the District, the numbers in brackets refer to the population at the last census, and the area in acres.**

### **ASHFIELD MAGNA (375 ; 1548).**

There were 10 Births, compared with 7 last year.

The were 10 Deaths, compared with 4 last year ; 4 of these deaths were of infants under 1 year of age, a very large proportion ; 3 were of persons over 70 ; 1 was caused by Phthisis.

No notification of Infectious Diseases has been received from this village during the last 4 years.

Three cottages in this village have no water supply.

### **BADWELL ASH (356 ; 1543).**

There were 8 Births, compared with 4 last year.

There were 12 Deaths, compared with 4 last year ; of these 5 were of persons over 70 years of age, 2 were caused by Phthisis, and 4 by Influenza.

No notification of Infectious Diseases have been received from this village during the last 4 years.

A nuisance was caused by the sanitary accomodation to 6 cottages being in a dilapidated state, this has since been remedied.

### **BEYTON (351 ; 644).**

There were 7 Births, compared with 2 last year.

There were 4 Deaths, compared with 3 last year ; 1 was of an infant under 1 year of age, and the others were of persons under 70.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified.

DRINKSTONE (382; 2196).

There were 6 Births, compared with 5 last year.

There was 1 Death only, compared with 5 last year; this death was due to suicide; 2 of the persons who died in the Workhouse belonged to this village.

One case of Scarlet Fever was notified.

Two new cottages were erected in this village during the year; the well water was analysed and found free from organic pollution, and I suggested that the upper part of the well should be rendered in cement and brought a few inches above the ground.

ELMSWELL (858; 2089).

There were 24 Births, compared with 18 last year; 4 of these births were illegitimate.

There were 13 Deaths, the same number as in the previous 2 years; one of these deaths was of an infant under 1 year of age; 8 were of persons over 70; 1 death was caused by Influenza. One of the paupers who died at the Workhouse belonged to this village.

No cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified during the last 2 years.

A cottage was reported as having no drainage; the owner was served with notice to construct same, which he did. The parish sewer was blocked with mud and had to be opened up and examined. It was constructed of bull pipes: orders were given to have it re-constructed in glazed pipes, but it was a fruitful source of trouble during the hot months of the year.

FELSHAM (363; 1654).

There were 8 Births, compared with 14 last year; and there were no Deaths, compared with 3 last year.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified.

GEDDING (97; 494).

There were 3 Births, compared with the same number last year; there were no deaths, compared with 1 last year.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified.

The sanitary accommodation connected with a cottage was reported to be dilapidated and the owner was served with notice to re-construct same; this has since been completed.

HESSETT (381; 1604).

There were 5 Births, compared with 6 last year.

There were 7 Deaths, compared with the same number last year; 3 of these deaths were of persons over 80 years of age, and 1 was caused by Phthisis.

One of the paupers who died in the Workhouse belonged to this village.

One case of Erysipelas was notified.

A complaint was received from the village, as to a manure heap polluting a pond of water.

HINDERCLAY (261; 1488).

There were 2 Births, compared with 4 last year.

There were 3 Deaths (all of persons over 70 years of age), compared with 2 last year.

No Infectious Diseases were notified from this village during the last two years.

HUNSTON (127; 960).

There were 2 Births, compared with 1 last year.

There was 1 Death, compared with 1 last year.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified.

(LANGHAM (154; 970).

There were 2 Births, compared with 2 last year.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with none last year; 1 was of a person over 70 years of age, and 1 was caused by Influenza.

No Infectious Diseases were notified during the last 2 years.



NORTON (742; 246).

There were 23 Births compared with 21 last year.

There were 10 Deaths, compared with 8 last year; 2 were of infants under 1 year of age, 6 were of persons over 70; 1 death was caused by Phthisis, and 1 was due to an accident.

One of the paupers who died in the Workhouse belonged to this village.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, and in consequence the Schools were closed at the end of the year.

Two owners were served with notice to abate nuisances; in one case, a Farm, the drain was blocked, the closet out of repair, and the pump out of order; in the other, an Inn, the sewage overflowed into a ditch, in both cases the nuisances have been abated.

RATTLESDEN (894; 3299).

There were 35 Births, compared with 21 last year.

There were 15 Deaths, compared with 8 last year; 3 of these deaths were of infants under 1 year of age, and 7 were of persons over 70; 2 of the paupers who died in the Workhouse belonged to this village.

Three cases of Erysipelas were notified.

Two owners were served with notices to abate nuisances; 1 in connection with 2 cottages, the sanitary accommodation was very dilapidated; in the other case, also in connection with 2 cottages, the vault was leaking into a ditch and polluting a pond; these have since been remedied.

RICKINGHALL INFERIOR (381; 1981).

There were 11 Births, compared with 9 last year.

There were 5 Deaths, compared with 4 last year; 1 was of an infant under 1 year of age, and 2 were of persons over 70.

One case of Diphtheria was notified, it was imported into the village.

One case of overcrowding was reported, and it was rectified by 3 of the children being sent away and the lodgers.

STOWLANGTOFT (158; 1478).

There were 5 Births, compared with 3 last year.

There were no Deaths, compared with one last year.

One case of Erysipelas and 1 case of Scarlet Fever were notified; with regard to the case of Erysipelas, the drains of the house were found to be untrapped, these were put in order after the owner was written to on the subject.

THURSTON (600; 2223).

There were 11 Births, compared with 13 last year.

There were 9 Deaths, compared with 8 last year; 3 were of persons over 70 years of age; 3 were caused by Phthisis.

One of the paupers who died in the Workhouse belonged to this village.

One case of Erysipelas, and one case of Scarlet Fever were notified.

Nuisances were caused by defective drains connected with 2 cottages, in both cases the owners were served with notice to re-construct and complied with same.

TOSTOCK (286; 952).

There were 5 Births, compared with 9 last year.

There were 5 Deaths, compared with 4 last year; 1 of these was of an infant under 1 year of age and the other 5 were of persons over 70.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified.

The drains in connection with 3 cottages were reported as blocked, and were put right after the owner was written to; the vault in connection with 2 other cottages was overflowing, the owner served with the usual notice, and the nuisance since abated.

WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS (1038 ; 2817).

There were 24 Births, compared with 25 last year.

There were 11 Deaths, compared with 16 last year ; 1 was of an infant under 1 year of age, and 7 were of persons over 70 ; 3 of these deaths were caused by Influenza.

One of the paupers who died in the Workhouse belonged to this village.

Two cases of Erysipelas, and 1 of Scarlet Fever were notified.

WATTISFIELD (408 ; 1530).

There were 7 Births, compared with 11 last year.

There were 5 Deaths, compared with 1 last year ; 1 was of an infant under 1 year of age, and 2 were of persons over 70. One death was caused by Phthisis.

No cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified during the last 2 years.

WOOLPIT (863 ; 1881).

There were 20 Births, compared with 17 last year.

There were 9 Deaths, compared with 12 last year ; 3 were of infants under 1 year of age (a large proportion) and one only was of a person over 70 ; 1 death was caused by an accident, one due to suicide, and 1 infant was starved to death through neglect.

One of the paupers who died in the Workhouse belonged to this village.

No cases of Infectious Diseases were notified.

A nuisance reported last year has since been abated. Nuisances were caused by blocking of drains in connection with a Farmhouse and an Inn. In connection with 2 cottages there were no drains at all, the owners were served with notice to construct drains ; in connection with 4 other cottages the drains were all defective and the owners were served with notice to re-construct ; all this work has since been done.

The Slaughter houses were inspected and were ordered to be limewashed and cleaned, this has since been done.

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In conclusion, I have to acknowledge the help I have received from the Sanitary Inspector, and to thank the Chairman and Members for the considerate manner in which they have received my suggestions during the year.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS W. LOW, M.B., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Table I shows the estimated population, and Birth and Death Rates for the last 10 years.

Table III shows the cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and particulars as to age.

Table IV shows the causes of, and ages at Death during the year.

Table V gives the details of the Infant Mortality.

TABLE I.  
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 yr. or age		At all ages.						
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registrd.	Number	Rate.*				Number	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	9195	247	25.7	30	121	149	16.1			6	155	16.8
1899	9155	250	27.1	21	84	111	12.1			10	121	13.2
1900	9115	241	26.4	10	41	124	13.5			10	134	14.6
1901	9055	255	28.1	18	70	122	13.4			13	135	14.9
1902	9015	217	24.0	32	147	152	16.8			3	155	17.1
1903	8975	254	28.5	13	51	98	10.9			2	100	11.1
1904	8935	202	22.6	17	85	144	16.2			7	151	16.8
1905	8895	238	26.7	23	96	138	15.5			6	144	16.0
1906	8885	241	27.1	15	62	114	12.6			10	124	14.0
1907	8865	195	21.9	14	75	104	11.7			5	108	12.2
Averages for years 1898-1907			25.8		83		13.8			7		14.6
1908	8855	218	24.6	18	82	122	13.7			10	132	15.0

\*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) .. 34126.

Total population at all ages at Census of 1901 .. 9075.

Number of inhabited houses .. 2113.

Average number of persons per house .. 4.7.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.				
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Diphtheria .. ..	1			1		
Erysipelas .. ..	8		1		4	3
Scarlet Fever .. ..	9	2	6	1		
Enteric Fever .. ..						
Totals .. ..	18	2	7	2	4	3

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.	
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards		
Epidemic Influenza .. ..	7		1			4	2		7
Enteritis .. ..	1						1	1	
Phthisis .. ..	10				1	7	2	4	6
Cancer, malignant disease ..	12					6	6	7	5
Bronchitis .. ..	14	3				1	10	5	9
Pneumonia .. ..	3	1				1	1	3	
Pleurisy .. ..	1						1		1
Premature Birth .. ..	4	4						2	2
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1					1		1	
Heart Diseases .. ..	23				1	5	17	8	15
Accidents .. ..	2					2		1	1
Suicides .. ..	2				1	1		2	
Debility from Birth .. ..	7	7						3	4
Old Age .. ..	18						18	9	9
All other causes .. ..	27	3	3			6	15	11	16
All Causes .. ..	132	18	4		3	34	73	57	75



TABLE V.  
 INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.  
 Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	6-7 Months	8-9 Months	10-11 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
ALL CAUSES certified .. ..											
Premature Birth .. ..	4	1		5							5
Want of Breast-Milk, Starvation ..										1	1
Injury at Birth .. ..											
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	2	1	2	5	1						6
Syphilis .. ..											
Bronchitis .. ..						1	1	1			3
Pneumonia .. ..								1			1
Other Causes .. ..					1				1		2
				10							18

Population estimated to middle of 1908	..	..	..	8855.
Births in the year	{	legitimate	..	218.
	{	illegitimate	..	10.
Deaths in the year of	{	legitimate infants	..	17.
	{	illegitimate infants	..	1.